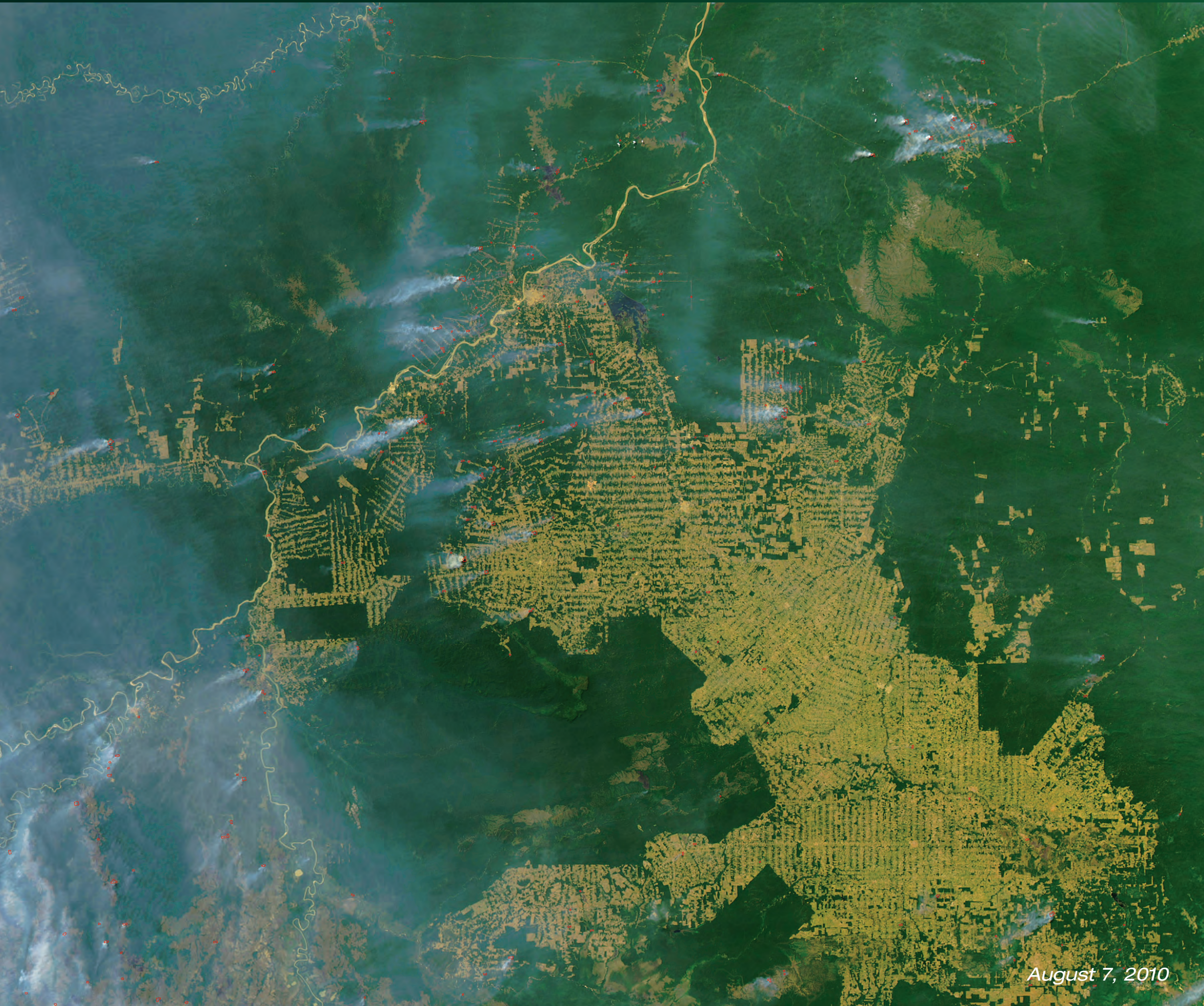
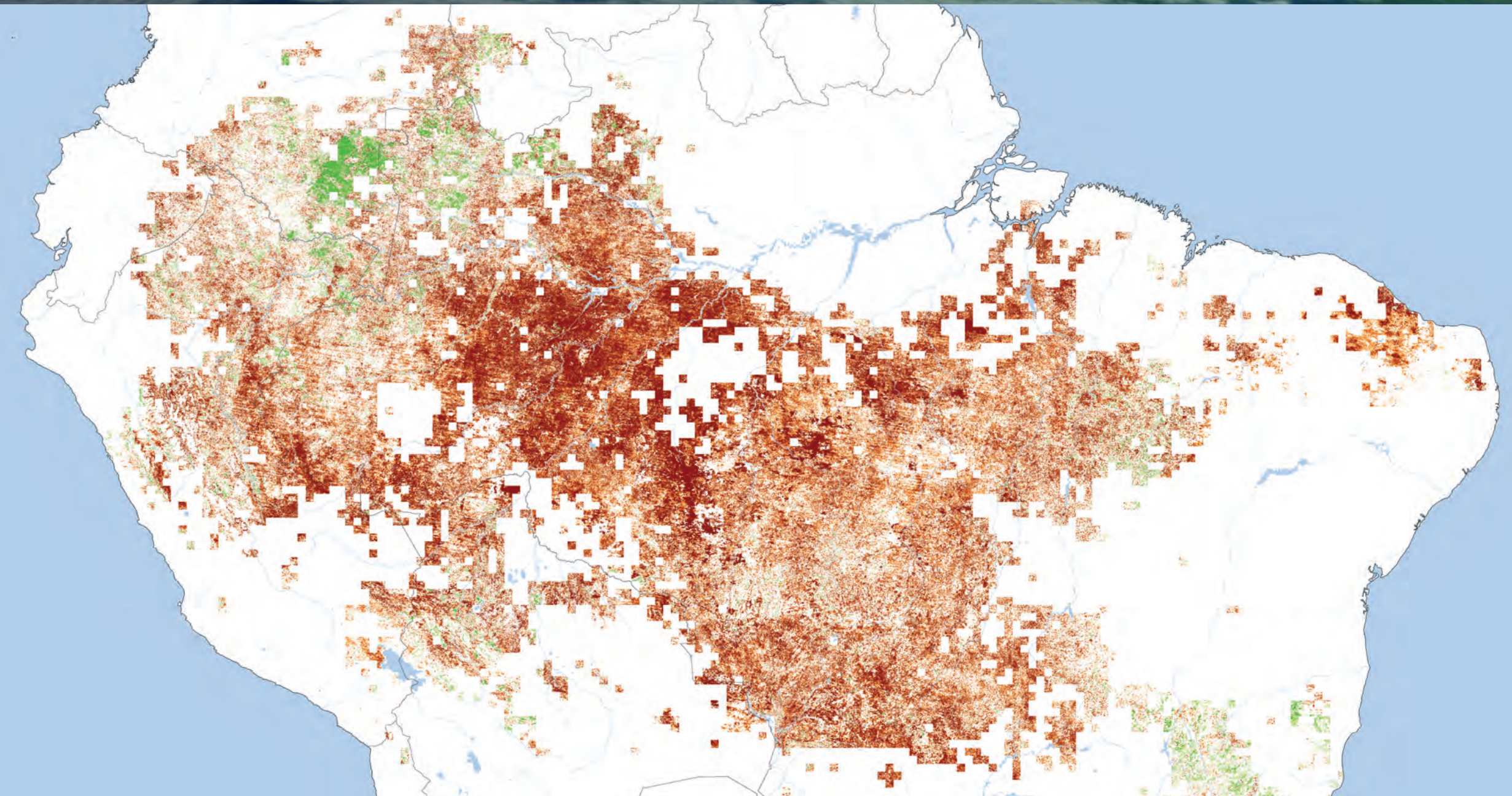




The Dynamics of our Changing Land Cover

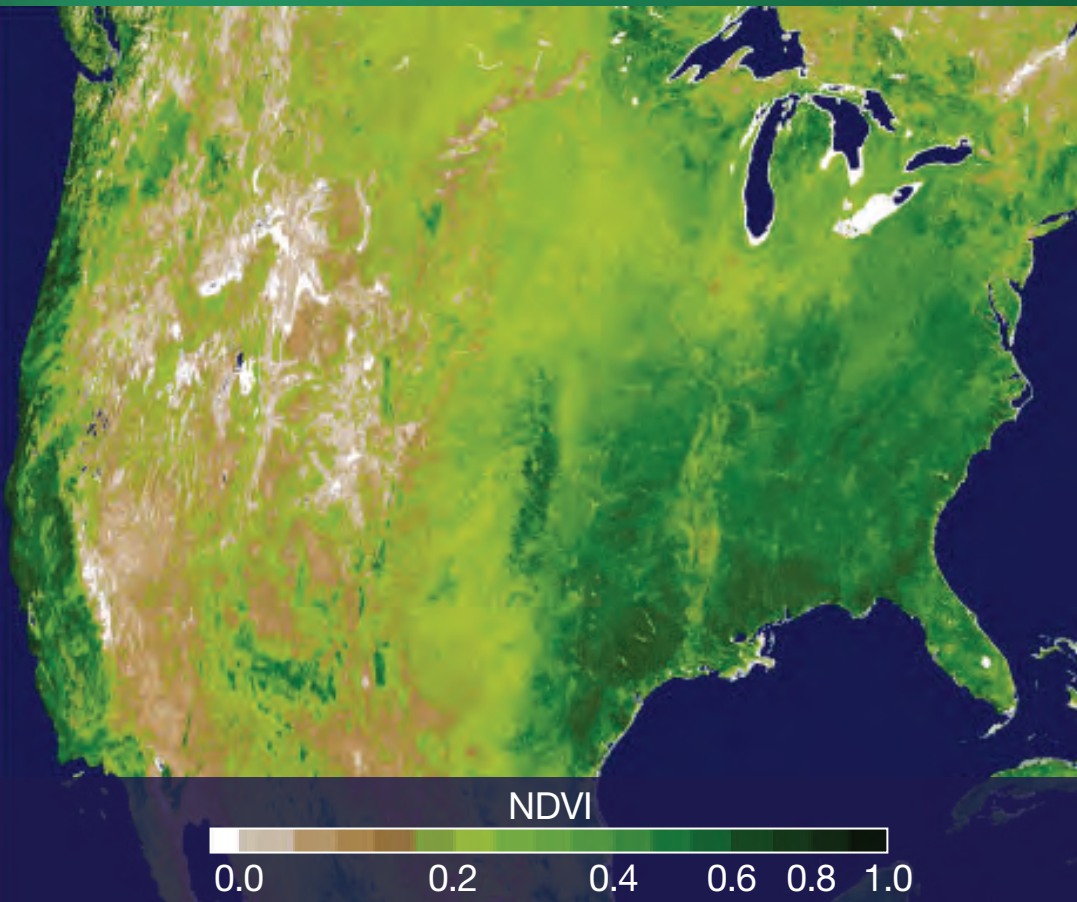


Fires burning along the Madeira River in Brazil. NASA's Aqua satellite captured this natural-color image. (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer - MODIS)

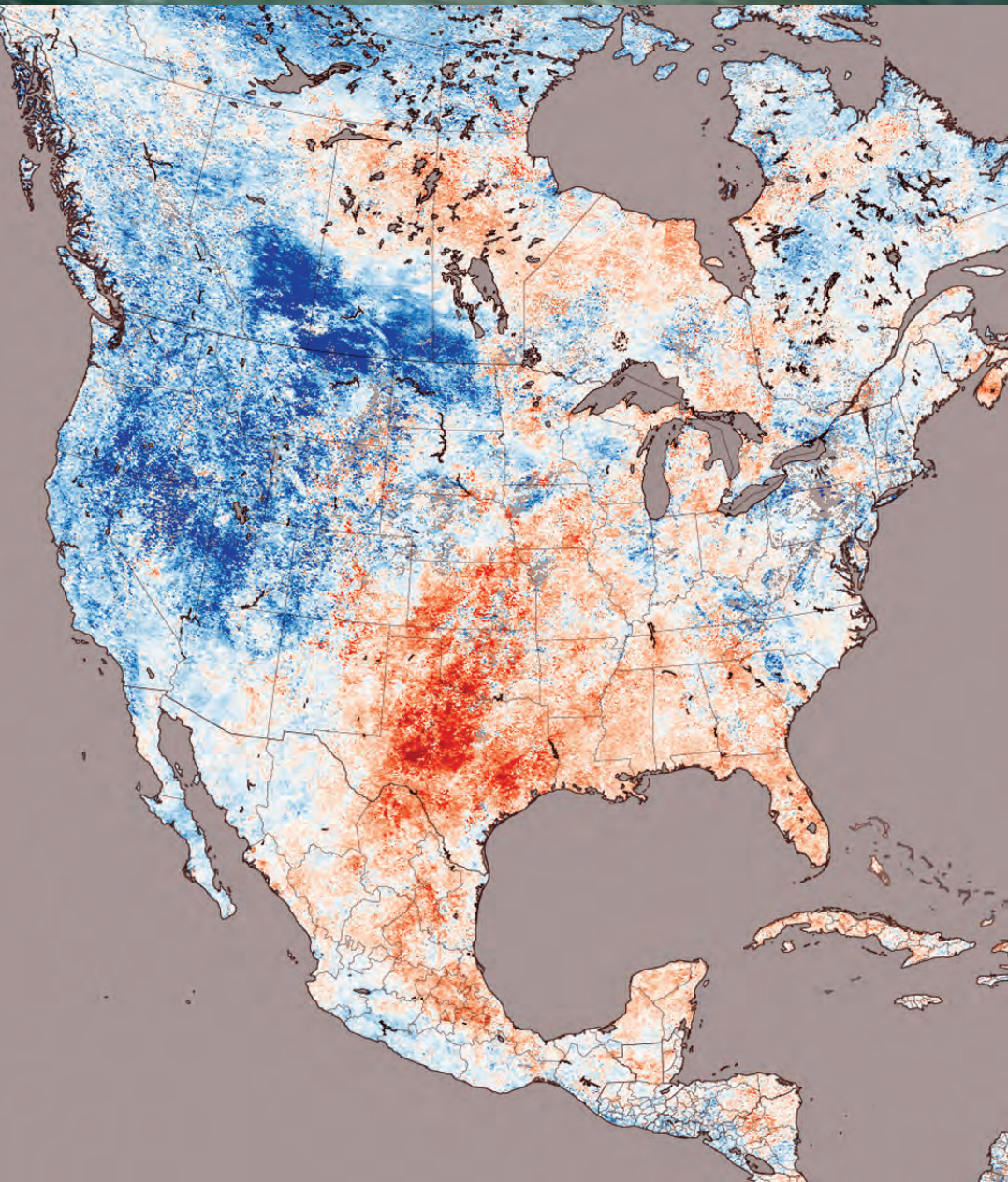


A combination of haze, clouds, rainfall and vegetation 'greenness' data comprise this image showing the effects of a massive drought from July and September 2010 when compared to the same period between 2000 and 2009 with normal rainfall. Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on the Terra satellite.

- Fertile and fallow lands change with seasons, climate, human activities and natural disasters.
- NASA satellites track these events from space and measure the effects that occur.
 - Fires causing deforestation of tropical forests.
 - Farming changes as human populations move and settlements expand.



Scientists use data like this Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) to monitor, map, and manage terrestrial vegetation. This radiometric measurement of the amount, structure, and condition of vegetation is a compilation of MODIS data from March 4 - 20, 2000.



Red tones showing that most ground temperatures in Texas from April 7 to 14, 2011 were much warmer than normal. High ground temperatures and very dry conditions led to deadly wildfires across the state. MODIS instrument aboard the Terra satellite.

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